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7 March 1994

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 91 (h)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/48/717/Add.9)]

48/179. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which the General Assembly endorsed in its resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 and subsequently reaffirmed in its resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, 4/ the recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", see Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

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Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 5/ General Assembly resolution 46/165 of 19 December 1991, and other resolutions and decisions adopted by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

Recognizing, in the context of relevant measures to restructure the Secretariat and of General Assembly resolution 47/212 of 23 December 1992, the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in this respect,

Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the reactivation of economic growth and development of the developing countries and their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming that capacity-building in science and technology for development in the developing countries should remain one of the priority issues on the agenda of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the United Nations should play a central role in the enhancement of support and assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to build their endogenous capacity in science and technology,

Recalling the need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of the developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Stressing the need for developed countries and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous scientific and technological capabilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries, 6/

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

6/ A/48/465.

1. Endorses the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its first session, 7/ including the recommendation that the Council, at its organizational session for 1994, include science and technology for development as a priority subject to be considered at the coordination segment of the Council in 1994;

2. Stresses that endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries is indispensable to their efforts to mobilize indigenous resources for science and technology for development;

3. Emphasizes the vital role of the United Nations in supporting the developing countries in endogenous capacity-building in the field of science and technology;

4. Urges that national efforts and international development cooperation, in particular through supportive financial and technical assistance from donor Governments, multilateral lending institutions and international agencies, be intensified and strengthened towards endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries;

5. Welcomes the initiative for a consultative meeting to consider ways and means for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of the developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for convening such a meeting, within existing resources, as soon as possible;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 8/ and the activities planned for the biennium 1994-1995 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with the specific mandates provided for in relevant General Assembly resolutions;

7. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through better coordination, including in the fields of technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

8. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 11 (E/1993/31).

8/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vol. I.

9. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among the developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their comparative advantages and complementarities, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional or subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing, as appropriate, for such efforts;

10. Recognizes also the potentially important role of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries, and calls upon all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on ways and means of reinvigorating the Fund and ensuring its effective operation.

86th plenary meeting
21 December 1993

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/48/717/Add.10)]

48/180. Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/98 of 14 December 1990, 45/188 of 21 December 1990, 46/166 of 19 December 1991 and 47/171, 47/181 and 47/199 of 22 December 1992,

Taking note of Agenda 21, 1/ the Cartagena Commitment, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade 3/ and the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 4/

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", see Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

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Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship and national development, 5/

Taking note of chapter VII of the World Economic Survey, 1993, 6/

Taking into account the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing the importance of the market and the private sector for the efficient functioning of economies in various stages of development,

Recognizing the sovereign right of each State to decide on the development of its private and public sectors, taking into account the comparative advantages of each sector, bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural diversity in the world,

Acknowledging that broad participation by individuals and major groups in decision-making is a fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of economic growth and sustainable development, with entrepreneurship as an important element of that goal,

Noting that many countries continue to attach major importance to the privatization of enterprises, demonopolization and administrative deregulation in the context of their economic restructuring policies, as a means to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the important role of Governments in creating, through transparent and participatory processes, the enabling environment supportive of entrepreneurship and facilitative of privatization, in particular the establishment of the judicial, executive and legislative frameworks necessary for a market-based exchange of goods and services and for good management, as described in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the Cartagena Commitment, 2/

Emphasizing the importance of a supportive international economic environment, including investment and trade, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization in all countries,

Noting the difficulties that countries encounter in promoting entrepreneurship and in implementing privatization programmes owing to a lack of appropriate experience and technical capacities in those areas,

Welcoming the activities that have been and will be undertaken by the organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system for the benefit of recipient countries and in conformity with their own policies and priorities for development, in supporting national efforts aimed at creating enabling environments for entrepreneurship and for the implementation of privatization programmes,

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5/ A/48/472.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.C.1.

Recalling with satisfaction the active collaboration between the United Nations system and private-sector associations, such as the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Development Programme with the International Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Group of 77,

Mindful of the resource constraints of the Secretariat and, therefore, of the need to rationalize related agenda items and requests for reports,

1. Invites interested Member States to enhance the exchange of information among themselves and all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on activities, programmes and experiences of Member States and the United Nations system concerning entrepreneurship, privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of technical cooperation in this field;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen, within existing resources and with due priority, the activities of the United Nations system related to the promotion of entrepreneurship and to the implementation of privatization programmes, demonopolization and administrative deregulation, through, inter alia, better coordination;

3. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, according to their mandates, to develop and, upon request, increase technical assistance, and to incorporate in their respective programming and activities specific objectives that will:

(a) Facilitate, as appropriate, the creation of enabling environments for the establishment and growth of small and medium-size enterprises and for the support of local entrepreneurs;

(b) Facilitate, as appropriate, the design and implementation of privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation policies, and assist relevant national institutions in developing the capacities to institute appropriate policy, legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks and incentives to promote entrepreneurship;

4. Encourages the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in pursuing those activities, to foster active partnerships between public and private entities, taking into account the capacities for self-organization of entrepreneurs, through, for example:

(a) Mechanisms for discussion and consultation by relevant parties as to the appropriate ways to enhance the environment for entrepreneurship, privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation;

(b) Promoting initiatives, such as national and, where appropriate, regional workshops, to review and disseminate experience and lessons learned locally and internationally on the promotion of entrepreneurship and on the implementation of privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a biennial report, in consultation with the heads of relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, on policies and activities related to

entrepreneurship, privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation, clarifying the focus of their respective activities;

6. Decides to review and appraise at its fiftieth session the activities related to the present resolution under an item entitled "Development and international economic cooperation: Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development".

86th plenary meeting
21 December 1993